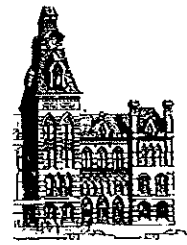




Toni N. Harp  
Mayor

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*Testimony in Support of*

**HB 5550 AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONVEYANCE OF  
CERTAIN PARCELS OF STATE LAND  
Section 3**

*Submitted by*  
**Rebecca Bombero, Legislative Director**  
March 17, 2014

Senator Musto, Rep. Jutila, and members of the Governmental Affairs & Elections Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on behalf of HB 5550 An Act Concerning the Conveyance of Certain Parcels of State Land, specifically Section 3.

Section 3 of the bill would convey to the City the former CT Transit site located at 470 James Street. The City is currently faced with a deteriorating Public Works building and an outdated and over crowded Police Headquarters. Both departments have been reviewing current facility upgrades or alternate spaces. The James Street site would provide the unique opportunity to move both operations into the same facility where all operations could be internal to the building and the adjacent lots could accommodate parking for all employees, but would not include the parking of equipment. The City and the New Haven Economic Development Corporation are currently conducting a study to determine both the feasibility of this plan and the potential alternate uses of the site and the potential uses for the sites currently used by both the Public Works and Police Departments.

The CT Transit is bounded by train tracks, the highway and industrial/commercial uses. A recent RFQ by DECD generated no interest for the site. Conversely, the Police Department due to its location across the street from Union Station and proximate to both the medical and downtown districts would likely generate significant interest for development.

The economic development studies are expected to be completed this spring and will guide the City's planning. The next step will be to gauge local interest and support through community meetings. We urge your inclusion of Section 3 to enable the City to continue this process.